

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Senator Vi Simpson
upon her retirement from the Indiana Senate.

LANANE

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Senator Vi Simpson
2 upon her retirement from the Indiana Senate.

3 *Whereas, Senator Vi Simpson was first elected to the*
4 *Indiana Senate to represent District 40 in 1984. Inspired by*
5 *John F. Kennedy and Frank O'Bannon, she defied the odds by*
6 *running and winning against an incumbent senator;*

7 *Whereas, Within her caucus, Senator Simpson progressed*
8 *through Senate Leadership positions. She served as Assistant*
9 *Democrat Leader from 2006 until 2008, when she was elected*
10 *as Caucus Leader. This was the first time in Indiana General*
11 *Assembly history that a woman led any of the caucuses;*

12 *Whereas, During her 28-year tenure, Senator Simpson*
13 *established herself as an expert on the state's budget and served*
14 *as her caucus' representative on the State Budget Committee*
15 *for 10 years. Not only was she the first woman to serve on the*
16 *committee, but she became the first to lead it;*

17 *Whereas, Senator Simpson's expertise gained national*
18 *attention. She was elected President-elect of the National*
19 *Conference of Insurance Legislators, and was appointed to*



1 *serve on the Legislative Effectiveness Committee of the*
2 *National Conference of State Legislatures;*

3 *Whereas, Senator Simpson was a strong advocate of*
4 *education, recognizing that a well-educated workforce is*
5 *crucial for economic success. She diligently worked at*
6 *balancing the needs of urban, rural, and suburban schools*
7 *throughout the state while increasing funding for the arts;*

8 *Whereas, One of Senator Simpson's most notable and*
9 *personally rewarding legislative achievements was the creation*
10 *of the Indiana Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP),*
11 *which has become a national model for delivering cost-effective*
12 *health services to uninsured children. After three years of*
13 *difficult work, Indiana became one of the first states to create*
14 *a children's health insurance program, and was the first state*
15 *to include a mental health parity component;*

16 *Whereas, Senator Simpson was a champion of women's*
17 *rights. She authored numerous pieces of legislation that*
18 *encompassed the issues of women's health programs,*
19 *reproductive rights, lactation support in the workplace*
20 *protection against dating violence and sexual assault, and*
21 *workplace equality. Furthermore, her passion for women's*
22 *rights inspired her to host Democratic Women's Day at the*
23 *Statehouse, which supported and encouraged women to become*
24 *more engaged in the political process;*

25 *Whereas, Senator Simpson is an ardent lover of nature and*
26 *can often be found tending to her garden;*

27 *Whereas, Senator Simpson was the recipient of a multitude*
28 *of awards throughout her career, including the Indiana*
29 *Women of Achievement Award by the Ball State University*
30 *College of Sciences and Humanities, the Friend of Children*
31 *Award by IARCCA, the Small Business Champion Award by the*
32 *Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Distinguished Legislator*
33 *Award by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National*



1 *Legislator of the Year by the American Academy of Physicians,*
 2 *and the American Medical Association's highest honor - the*
 3 *Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service.*
 4 *Additionally, she was named "Legislator of the Year" by a*
 5 *number of organizations, including, but not limited to, the State*
 6 *Employees Association, Indiana ARC, the Indiana Library*
 7 *Federation, and the Indiana Wildlife Federation;*

8 *Whereas, Senator Simpson earned her undergraduate*
 9 *degree from California State University and her law degree*
 10 *from Indiana University School of Law. She entered politics*
 11 *after being encouraged by former mayor and six-term U.S.*
 12 *Congressman Frank McCloskey to run for Monroe County*
 13 *Auditor, a position she held until winning her senate seat. Later*
 14 *in her career, she would run for Lieutenant Governor alongside*
 15 *John Gregg in the hotly contested 2012 Governor race;*

16
 17 *Whereas, Senator Simpson resides in Richland Township*
 18 *with her husband, former State Senator Bill McCarty. She has*
 19 *two wonderful children, Jason Kinney and Kristina Simmonds,*
 20 *and four amazing grandchildren, Evan, Stella, Violet, and*
 21 *Dashielle; and*

22 *Whereas, Senator Simpson was always a source of*
 23 *inspiration, energy, compassion, and knowledge that will be*
 24 *dearly missed. Her devotion to education, social issues, health*
 25 *care, the environment, and small business speaks volumes on*
 26 *the beauty of her character. In honor of her dedicated service*
 27 *and steadfast advocacy for the interests of her constituents, the*
 28 *Indiana Senate wishes her well in all her future endeavors:*
 29 *Therefore,*

30 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
 31 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

32 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate, on behalf of the citizens
 33 of the State of Indiana, hereby extend extreme gratitude to Senator
 34 Vi Simpson for her exceptional service to this state.



1 SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby
2 directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Vi
3 Simpson and her family.

